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2. Miscellaneous Information on Life
in the Lithuanian SSR

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State and Collective FarmsState Farms

1. Workers in the sovkhoz (state farm) get along fairly well. They are considered government workers and receive about 300 rubles a month. They also receive living quarters, fuel, and 60 acres of land, sometimes more, depending upon the director. There are no activists in the sovkhoz. The farm or estate is run by a manager, and he usually has an accountant, orchardists, a manager of animals, etc., to assist him. A director is appointed for every seven farms. A manager's administration consists more or less of the following personnel:

- a. Bookkeeper
- b. Secretary
- c. Accountant
- d. Animal specialist
- e. Agricultural specialist
- f. Veterinary
- g. Storekeeper

Collective Farms

2. The most wronged people of the country are the kolkhoz (collective farm) people. They are paid according to workdays. The amount of work scheduled for a workday takes not less than two days, and more often three days, to complete. Thus, very often a kolkhoz laborer completes not more than 100 workdays a year. The salary for these workdays is so small that a friend of the source who worked with his wife an entire year on a collective farm received as compensation 125 kg of grain of the very poorest quality. The wages for a workday are about three kopeks.

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3. The structure of a kolkhoz is as follows:

- a. Chairman
- b. Secretary-accountant
- c. Brigadier. He has a village or two villages under his jurisdiction.
- d. Corporals, two or three for every brigadier.
- e. Storekeeper
- f. Manager of animal section
- g. Blacksmith
- h. Milkmaids
- i. Animal feeders

4. Every kolkhoz has a reading room and a Red Corner. Punishment for not reporting to work is as follows:

First time: Five workdays are written off.
 Second time: The worker's 60 ares are taken away.
 Third time: Trial.

5. For the 60 ares that a person possesses, on which he can keep a cow, a hog, and some chickens, a farmer has to pay such high taxes that it almost does not pay for him to have these animals, particularly when he is unable to get feed for the animals.

Miscellaneous Information of Life in the Lithuanian SSRExecutive Committee of an Administrative District

6. The structure of the Executive Committee of an Administrative District is as follows:

- a. Chairman, most often a Lithuanian. If the chairman is a Russian, he must know Lithuanian.
- b. Assistant
- c. Secretary
- d. Deputy, elected from the people.
- e. Party organizer
- f. Labor union organizer
- g. Propagandist, a Russian. He is, in fact, boss of the entire district, has contact with the Security forces, and collects the food quotas, etc.
- h. Farm branch, consisting of a manager, agricultural specialist, land manager, control assistants, etc.

Robberies

7. The Russians, in bringing into Lithuania the Bolshevik system, also brought in their vanguard of thieves. These Russian thieves are encountered everywhere, in the market, on trains, in the darker corners of the towns, and wherever there is a large gathering of people. Thefts are carried out in an organized manner, seldom by just one person. One steals and another guards him. If a bystander notices that his neighbor's pocket is being picked and informs him, he can be certain that he will receive a knife in his head from one of the thieves or some other attempt will be made to injure him. It is not uncommon for thieves at night to take away all the clothing from a victim, not speaking of money, watches, or other valuables. Even though the militia has a separate section for the apprehension of thieves, it can be said that they are helpless in this battle with thieves.

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Consumer Goods

8. There is a shortage of everything, beginning with bread and ending with clothing. If it is possible to obtain something, it is of the very poorest quality and only during certain times and after waiting in line for several hours. The bread is of such poor quality that it is not necessary to cut it with a knife; it can be eaten with a spoon, since it consists of 50 or more percent of water. Shoes are of the very poorest quality and usually have rubber soles. Suits are of mixed materials.

Speculation

9. Taking into consideration the poverty of the country, speculation goes on at full tempo in all necessities from buttons to bacon. Speculators are assiduously hunted by special sections in the militia. Those who are caught receive sentences of several years; however, the militia men are easily bribed, and it is a rare inhabitant who does not engage in speculation and escape arrest and/or prosecution. Various wares can be purchased on the black market, but their prices are not within the reach of everyone.

Clothing

10. The suits are almost always of a dark-colored material, with the trousers having very wide legs. Young people very rarely wear hats, not even in the winter. Older people do wear hats of "Polish" (Vilnius area style) tailoring or "German" tailoring. Overcoats are without belts and without lining. Russians and the higher Lithuanian officials like to wear leather coats. Clothing makers, such as tailors and shoemakers, have been forced into artels, but they work in their homes privately after working hours. One can also work privately, not participating in an artel at all, but the license fee for such work is so high that no one could make enough to pay for it.

Salaries

11. The salary of an average worker is about 250-300 rubles a month. Specialists make more. A large part of his salary is taken away from a worker by the Stakhanovites. Even though a worker makes much more, the office nevertheless credits him with less completed work, and the balance is added to the credit of one who is earmarked to become a Stakhanovite. The minimum cost of living in the city, not counting shelter or clothing, is about 300 rubles a month.

25X1A 1 [REDACTED] Comment. Sixty acres of land seems an unusually large amount for a sovkhoz worker to receive.

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